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# Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 14, No. 7 July, 2006

[www.lambdaletters.org](http://www.lambdaletters.org)

[LambdaLP@aol.com](mailto:LambdaLP@aol.com)

(916) 728-1261

## Call the Governor! Contribute to LLP

*By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist*


Please take action to urge Governor Schwarzenegger to reconsider his misguided plan to veto SB 1437, the Bias-Free Curriculum Act, a bill authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) to ensure inclusive and bias-free curriculum in California schools. LLP is lobbying hard to support this bill.

Sponsored by Equality California, SB 1437 would prohibit instruction or school-sponsored activities that reflect adversely upon persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It would also require schools, textbooks, and other teaching materials to include information about the contributions of LGBTI people to the advancement of the state and the nation.

If this bill is vetoed, all students will suffer at the hands of a governor who is either uninformed about what the bill does or is pandering to the far right wing in an election year. The governor needs to hear from thousands of fair-minded Californians like you who support an inclusive and bias-free curriculum.

You can let him know how you feel in under a minute:

1. Call the governor at (916) 445-2841.
2. Press 1 for English (or follow the instructions given in Spanish)
3. Press 2 for legislation.
4. Press 1 for SB 1437.
5. Press 1 to support it!

Thank you for your ongoing support. 

Three or four times a year we send fund-raising appeals to our members. Up until now the generous support of good people like you in response to those appeals has been the main source of financial support for the project. We now have a Development Director to help us raise funds but until he gets fully established we remain dependent upon the generosity of our members.

In the past, fund-raising letters to our members have generally raised between \$3,000 and \$5000 from about 100 people. However, a fund-raising letter sent last month generated donations from only 16 people, totaling just over \$600. We continue to depend on the support of our members. Please consider sending a generous contribution along with your signed letters this month.

Last year we delivered over 40,000 letters and e-mails in support of the bill to allow same-sex couples to marry. Lambda Letters has delivered just shy of 1.5 million letters and e-mails to elected officials since 2000. And we did that at a cost of just about 15 cents per letter or e-mail. I doubt that any other organization does so much at such little cost.

The years from 2000 onward have been ones in which the rights of the LGBTI community have exploded. The concept of domestic partnership did not even exist before

1999. Now, as the result of the passage of several bills, same-sex couples have almost all the rights of married couples in California. The huge volume of mail generated by Lambda Letters played a major part in that accomplishment.

We did that with a relatively small membership. We have barely 1,000 members statewide. Think what we could do if we had 10,000 members. It takes a considerable amount of money to run our current operation; it will take much more to increase the work that we do significantly.


Please help us to do the outstanding, yet very cost-efficient work that we do. Please donate whatever you can.

We had set goals for larger contributions in the last fund-raising appeal to be directed to reaching our next 1.5 million letters and e-mails as quickly as possible. We had hoped to receive the following:

- ♦ One \$5,000 donation
- ♦ Two \$2,500 donations
- ♦ Ten \$1,000 donations

If you can do so, please consider becoming one of these major donors. If you cannot, give what you can and think about sharing our work (your work!) with others who might have the financial means.

Please donate as generously as you can so we can continue our important work together.

You may make a donation to Lambda Letters by going to [www.lambdaletters.org](http://www.lambdaletters.org) and clicking on Donations/Membership. 

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### Lambda Letters Progress Report

#### Letters Collected

May, 2006	79,772 letters
In all of 2006	129,567 letters & e-mails

#### Dollars Spent

May, 2006	\$13,560
In all of 2006	\$36,653

#### Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.



# Lambda Letters Project

## Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

## Board of Directors

Chair: Pat Washington, San Diego,  
pat.washington@lambdaletters.org  
Vice-Chair: Ellis Vance, Fresno,  
ellis.vance@lambdaletters.org  
Treasurer: Ellis Vance, Fresno,  
ellis.vance@lambdaletters.org  
Secretary: Anne Daniels, Sacramento,  
anne.daniels@lambdaletters.org  
Shirin Buckman, Hollywood,  
shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org  
Alex Eng, Sacramento, alex.eng@lambdaletters.org  
Joy Fisher, Sacramento,  
joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org  
Sara E. Freid, Sacramento,  
sara.freid@lambdaletters.org  
Debi Henry, Sacramento,  
debi.henry@lambdaletters.org  
Lorenzo Holguin, Clovis,  
lorenzo.holguin@lambdaletters.org  
Stacy L. Saetta, Soquel,  
stacy.saetta@lambdaletters.org

## Staff

Chief Lobbyist, E-mail Alert Advocate:  
Boyce Hinman, (916) 728-1261,  
boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org  
Newsletter/Website Editor: Stefan Gruenwedel,  
stefan@stefanmedia.com  
Legislative Analysts:  
♦ LGBTI Issues: Shirin Buckman,  
shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org  
♦ HIV/AIDS Issues: Boyce Hinman,  
boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org  
♦ People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez,  
marty.martinez@lambdaletters.org  
♦ Women's Issues: Joy Fisher,  
joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org  
♦ Economic Issues: Shirin Buckman,  
shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org

General Coordinator: Aerie Stickney,  
aerie.stickney@lambdaletters.org  
Volunteer Coordinator: Pat Washington,  
pat.washington@lambdaletters.org  
Foundation Volunteers:  
Joy Fisher, joy.fisher@lambdaletters.org;  
Robert Harrison,  
robert.harrison@lambdaletters.org;  
Rusty Nichols rusty.nichols@lambdaletters.org

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Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

Send address changes to  
Lambda Letters Project, 3726 Madison Avenue #1,  
San Diego, CA 92116  
or e-mail aerie.stickney@lambdaletters.org.



## Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave? If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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## Curb Abusive Child Support Collection Agencies

*By Joy Fisher, Legislative Analyst*

In California, as across the nation, many custodial parents experience difficulties collecting child support. State child support agencies that collect support at little or no charge often have budget constraints that limit their ability to help these parents. As a result, a number of private companies specializing in child support debt collection have emerged.

Currently these private companies are largely unregulated and often prey upon low-income parents desperate to collect the money needed to support their children.

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has been tracking complaints against these private child support collection agencies and has concluded that these companies often fail to deliver any genuine services.

CLASP reviewed approximately 400 state consumer complaints and lawsuits and found that the "complaints reflect an offensive and disturbing picture of deceptive advertising, misleading contracts, fee gouging, harassment, and abuse posing as the government, dunning grandparents, inflating and fabricating debts, undermining creditworthiness, and abusing legal process."

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has found that these companies keep as much as 50% or more of the support collected. They thus strip income from low-income families that could be spent on housing, childcare, clothing, and school expenses.

Assemblymember Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) seeks to curb the abuses of this runaway industry through AB 2781, the Private Child Support Collection Act. This bill aims to provide new consumer protections regarding the collection of child support by private child support collection agencies.

Among other things, it would require these agencies to provide information to consumers in such a way that, for example,

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## Help Recovering Addicts

*By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst*

Please ask the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to support AB 2192, which lifts the lifetime ban on food stamps and TANF-funded benefits for persons with felony drug convictions.

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is a federally funded program that provides money and other benefits to low-income families. In California, this block grant is distributed through the CalWORKs program. In 1996 the Republican Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which means that any individual convicted of a felony drug offense at any time in their lives is ineligible to receive any government-provided assistance.

AB 2192 asks that CalWORKs recipients not be included in the lifetime ban if they have either completed, participated in, enrolled in, or are on a waiting list for a government-recognized drug treatment program; or there is strong evidence that drug use has stopped.

CalWORKs already includes a substance abuse treatment option in the welfare-to-work program. The governor's 2006-07 budget allocates \$49 million to be used for that purpose alone. Therefore, it does not make sense to retain a lifetime ban on aid if services are expressly provided for drug addiction treatment.

Proponents of the bill—including law enforcement officials, the ACLU, the Catholic Conference of Bishops, and the California Food Policy Advocates—support it because it increases the likelihood that more drug felons will be able to return to a healthy and stable lifestyle and remain drug-free.

As of 2005, 11 states and the District of Columbia have opted out of their lifetime ban, and another 14 states limit the ban specifically to drug selling or trafficking, or offer conditional aid upon completion or participation in a drug treatment program. In addition, California counties already have the discretion to disburse vouchers for rent and utilities, but not food, to felons convicted of drug offenses. Why not add the food benefit to this assistance?

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## Support Good Sex Education

*By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist*


SB 1471 would require our public schools to provide age-appropriate, complete, objective, and unbiased sex education to their students. It states that sex education should not reflect or promote bias against any group, including the LGBTI community. Here is why this bill is so important.

According to a United Nations report, The US teenage birth rate is the highest in the developed world: two and a half times as high as Australia, more than two and a half times as high as Canada, more than three times as high as Germany, nearly five times as high as France, seven times as high as Japan, and seven and a half times as high as the Netherlands.

Having children during their teenage years can destroy the chances of young women to complete their education and thus to be fully prepared for the challenges of the workplace. Many of them spend their lives in needless poverty.

Adolescents in this country have the highest rate of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) of any age group. When we calculate the rate of STDs among sexually active teens rather than all teens, the numbers are even higher. Every year, approximately three million adolescents in the US—about one in four—acquire STDs.

In one act of unprotected sexual intercourse, an adolescent woman has a 1% chance of acquiring HIV, a 30% chance of getting genital herpes, and a 50% chance of becoming infected with gonorrhea. When we consider that chlamydia infection occurs about four times more often than gonorrhea, we can see how prevalent this problem is. This is even without considering the most common STD, human papilloma virus (HPV) infection, which can be the cause of cancer of a woman's cervix when she gets older.

Clearly we need better sex education for our students. We must reduce the amount of unwanted teen pregnancies and teen sexually transmitted diseases. Better sex education is what SB 1471 is all about. Please write to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Urge them to vote for SB 1471. 



## Support Human Trafficking Victims

*By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst*

The current backlash against immigrants in our country is an embarrassment.


More than a quarter of California residents are foreign-born; immigrants and their children comprise nearly half of our state's population. Immigrants strengthen our economy through their entrepreneurship and they enrich our communities.

California's immigrants are eager to participate fully in the social, economic, and political life of their newly adopted home, but many lack the appropriate tools or information to do so.

As home to the largest immigrant population in the country, California must invest now in this population in order to ensure the successful integration of immigrants into our state's social and economic fabric.

The current anti-immigrant climate allows immigrants to be played upon by predators, such as human traffickers. SB 1569 by Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles) would ensure that human trafficking victims in California have access to state and local services.

By providing access to critical state services, immigrant survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes will be better able to cooperate with law enforcement to help prosecute their perpetrators.

Please write to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Urge them to vote for SB 1569. 

## Support Domestic Violence Programs

*By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst*


The California Department of Health Services (DHS) administers grants to support shelters for battered women. The grant is also used for the purposes of maintaining an advisory board that trains law enforcement on how to handle domestic violence issues. AB 2051 adds LGBTI community domestic abuse centers to the grant program. It also requires that LGBTI people be included in the advisory board.

Sponsored by Equality California, AB 2051 by Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn (D-San Jose) does two very important things for the LGBTI community. First, it includes underserved LGBTI communities as recipients for domestic violence shelter grants. Second, AB 2051 includes funding for law enforcement training on "the nature and extent of domestic violence in the LGBTI community."

According to Cohn, "Law enforcement and healthcare workers are usually not specifically trained to deal with LGBTI domestic abuse. As a result, victims do not necessarily receive appropriate services as compared with heterosexual victims."

Why is this bill so important? According to "Battered Gay Men: An Exploration of Abuse, Help Seeking, and Why They Stay," an article by Gregory Merrill and Velerie Wolfe in the Journal of Homosexuality, there is an equal number of battered men in same-sex relationships as there are women.

In addition, some LGBTI victims are afraid to go to shelters because they do not want to be outed or treated differently than heterosexual victims. In some parts of the state, there are no domestic violence organizations that deal with LGBTI issues and so gay men and transgender victims may not know where to go to seek help. That is why it is important for law enforcement to be trained on guiding LGBTI victims.

Domestic violence is a nondiscriminatory practice that spans all races, genders, ethnicities, religions, and sexual orientations. It is important that all segments of the population are protected. Please write to the Senate Appropriations Committee and tell them to support this bill. 

*This newsletter printed on recycled paper*


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fees charged could be easily understood by the consumer.

It also specifies circumstances under which the consumer may terminate the contract, and preserves the right of consumers to sue these agencies in a court of law.

This bill is supported by the Children's Advocacy Institute, the National Center for Youth Law, Consumers Union, and California NOW. It is opposed by the industry.

In 2004 former Senator Dede Alpert introduced SB 339 in an attempt to regulate this industry, but that bill was vetoed by the governor because, among other things, it sought to impose caps on the amount that agencies could charge. Despite his veto, the governor indicated that he supported ensuring parents not be taken advantage of in securing child support payments.

Please ask the Senate Appropriations Committee to support AB 2781 when it comes to a vote in that committee so that the governor will have another opportunity to give parents the protection that he says he believes they deserve. 


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## Economic Issue

*Continued from page 3*

Most importantly, this bill must be passed for several reasons. First, 46% of applicants who are denied aid are Latina or African-American women. Second, some applicants who are denied aid may not have committed a drug-related crime for decades. Others who are in rehab today may need help purchasing healthy food to aid them in their recovery.

Different versions of this bill have been vetoed in the past because of increased costs and lack of evidence that recipients will remain drug-free. However, the costs to society of keeping a family out on the street, or not treating a drug habit, is far more expensive than helping someone get clean, get a job, and get back to being a productive member of society.

Please urge the Senate Appropriations Committee to support AB 2192. 



# July Legislative Update

The period from July 7 through August 7 is officially a time of summer recess for the state legislature. No legislative committee meetings occur during this recess. However, if the legislators are still waiting around for the budget to be approved, they may go ahead and convene some committee meetings to discuss and vote on some of the bills before the legislature. Here is the latest status report on the bills we have been working on.

## HIV/AIDS Issues

**AB 1677** (Paul Koretz, D—West Hollywood)  
**Purpose:** To allow nonprofit agencies to distribute condoms in state prisons.  
**Status:** In the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2076** (John Laird, D—Santa Cruz)  
**Purpose:** To allow local governments to use HIV prevention and education general funds received from the state to pay for supplies for needle-exchange programs.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2203** (Bonnie Garcia, R—El Centro)  
**Purpose:** To require that a woman be provided an information sheet on HIV and AIDS any time she seeks a gynecological exam or family planning appointment.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2280** (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)  
**Purpose:** To require the state to develop a counseling model for all people who receive HIV testing at any publicly funded clinic.  
**Status:** In the Senate Health Committee for a vote on June 2. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2383** (Mervyn Dymally, D—Compton)  
**Purpose:** To require HIV testing of any inmates entering a prison or hospital by court order for a period of a year or more. Would require testing 60 to 120 days prior to release.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1341** (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To change the deadline currently in place on a law which allows thrift stores selling goods to support programs for people with HIV/AIDS to not charge a sales tax on the goods sold. These thrift stores would be allowed to sell items without charging sales tax until January 1, 2012.  
**Status:** In the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee for a vote on June 21.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1471** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To stipulate that sex education classes in public schools should be complete, accurate, age-appropriate, and should not express bias on any of several bases including sexual orientation.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SJR 22** (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)  
**Purpose:** To ask Congress to approve federal legislation meant to speed the development of a microbicide to prevent the transmission of HIV and other diseases.  
**Status:** Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

## Economic Issues

**AB 75** (Dario Frommer, D—Glendale)  
**Purpose:** To establish the California Rx Plus State Pharmacy Assistance Program. Any licensed pharmacy or drug manufacturer could enter the program. The state would negotiate drug discounts with them on behalf of people on a limited income.  
**Status:** In the Senate Health Committee. Hearing cancelled by author. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1778** (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To allow parents to prohibit schools from releasing information about the parent's children to US military recruiters.  
**Status:** In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 21. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1780** (Joe Baca, D—San Bernardino)  
**Purpose:** To reduce Community College fees to \$18 per unit per semester.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1786** (Rudy Bermudez, D—Norwalk)  
**Purpose:** To require the Superintendent of Education to look for ways of providing extra funds to schools for student busing programs divided among school districts on an equitable basis.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1835** (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically every January 1 after that, based on inflation.  
**Status:** In the Senate Labor Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1844** (Ed Chavez, D—City of Industry)  
**Purpose:** To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically every January 1 after that, based on inflation.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1851** (Joe Coto, D—San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To delete a deadline in current law that allows participating health, dental, or vision plans to assist people in signing up for the Healthy Families Program. The plans would be allowed to continue doing this.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate Health Committee and referred to the Senate Banking Committee. No hearing date set yet.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1971** (Wilma Chan, D—Oakland)  
**Purpose:** Currently health insurance companies and health care plans are required to provide limited-coverage and less expensive health coverage plans. This is a pilot program to end September 1, 2007. This bill extends the program to 2008. The bill would also require health care service plans and health insurers to sell a standard benefit plan to all individuals, regardless of health status, claims experience, or medical condition, in each geographic region in which the entity makes coverage available. It would also authorize a health care service plan or insurer to pay a fee, to the state, to contribute to the cost of a state insurance plan, instead of providing the standard benefit plan.  
**Status:** In the Senate Health Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1981** (Karen Bass, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To establish a program of grants to be made available to community-based organizations together with local law enforcement. The grants would fund programs to provide re-entry services to inmates of local jails and hopefully reduce their rate of rearrest.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1983** (Karen Bass, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To allow foster children on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to continue getting AFDC until age 25 at the latest and as long as he or she remains in foster care and continues in full-time education for a high school diploma, a high school equivalency certificate, or the equivalent level of vocational or educational training.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2004** (Betty Karnette, D—Long Beach)  
**Purpose:** To suspend Medi-Cal benefits for a juvenile who is sentenced to jail but require the Department of Correction to assure that those benefits are re-established as soon as the youth is released from jail.  
**Status:** In the Senate Health Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2040** (Judy Chu, D—Monterey Park)  
**Purpose:** To require the state to provide summer and Saturday dates for taking the high school exit exam if money is provided in the state budget.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate Education Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations

*Continued on page 6*



## Legislative Update

*Continued from page 5*

Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2046** (Joe Coto, D—San Jose)

**Purpose:** To authorize some public schools providing kindergarten to offer full-day sessions. By 2010 all schools offering kindergarten would have to offer full-day sessions.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2052** (Ray Haynes, R—Temecula)

**Purpose:** To require the state to make grants to small businesses to encourage their development.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2192** (Karen Bass, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To allow certain drug offenders to qualify for CalWORKs benefits under certain conditions.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2266** (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)

**Purpose:** To put a temporary moratorium on the death penalty while it is studied.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2334** (Ed Chavez, D—City of Industry)

**Purpose:** To require janitorial services to register annually with the state and to meet regulations set by the state including certain insurance and licensing requirements.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2339** (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To establish the Colorectal Cancer Treatment Program to provide outreach, education, prevention, and treatment of colorectal cancer in low-income men.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2466** (Lynn Daucher, R—Brea)

**Purpose:** To allow assets in a 401(k), IRA, or 529 college savings program to be excluded when determining whether a person is poor enough to qualify for CalWORKs.

**Status:** In the Senate Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2469** (Noreen Evans, D—Santa Rosa)

**Purpose:** To require the state to pay counties with 250,000 or fewer residents an amount annually equal to that previously paid by the county for in-home supportive and personal care services provided to people who are qualified aged, disabled, or blind persons on low incomes.

**Status:** In the Senate Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2481** (Noreen Evans, D—Santa Rosa)

**Purpose:** To increase by 5% the rates paid to adults who provide foster care to children who have been removed from their families homes. It would also provide for an annual increase, for the next four years, in the payment for those and related services.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2487** (Dave Cogdill, R—Modesto)

**Purpose:** To request the University of California and the California State University to reimburse part of the Community College fees of students who went through community colleges and later graduated from either the University of California or California State University.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2489** (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To allow any county office of education, or consortium of school districts, together with a county office of education, to apply for state grants to pay for operating educational services to foster children. Also would establish a program of higher education grants for foster children.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2495** (Karen Bass, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** This state, under the CalWORKs program, through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) program, provides aid on behalf of eligible children who are placed in the home of a relative caretaker. This bill augments payments under the Kin-GAP program by amounts equal to the amount of specialized care increment or clothing allowance the child would be eligible for under the AFDC program.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2536** (Cindy Montanez, D—Mission Hills)

**Purpose:** To apply state laws on eight-hour workdays and 40-hour work weeks, and on overtime pay for additional hours worked, to work done by personal attendants and live-in (non-live-in) household employees.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2576** (Hector De La Torre, D—South Gate)

**Purpose:** To require the Public Utilities Commission to grant lower utility rates to people whose income is at or under 250% of the federal poverty level. Requires utilities to use a single application form to enable an applicant to apply alternatively for any assistance program for which the applicant may be eligible. Also requires utilities to assure that those using the least power get the greatest discounts.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Energy Committee for a vote on June 20.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2877** (Dario Frommer, D—Glendale)

**Purpose:** To require the state to achieve cost savings in its public health programs by using more generic drugs.

**Status:** In the Senate Energy Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AJR 40** (Wilma Chan, D—Oakland)

**Purpose:** To ask Congress to pass the Medicare Informed Choice Act, HR 3861.

**Status:** Approved by the Legislature. Sent to Congress. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 778** (Dean Florz, D—Bakersfield)

**Purpose:** To prohibit banks from charging a fee for cashing a paycheck when the bank issued the check on behalf of an employer.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly. In the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee for a vote on June 26. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 840** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To provide health insurance for every resident of California.

**Status:** Passed the Senate. In the Assembly Rules Committee awaiting assignment to a committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1118** (Liz Figueroa, D—Fremont)

**Purpose:** To provide affordable health care for all children in California.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1124** (Tom Torlakson, D—Concord)

**Purpose:** To allow certain retired teachers to be rehired as mentors in high-priority schools without losing any pension income.

**Status:** In the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote on June 20.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1162** (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective 60 days after passage of the bill and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2007. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically at intervals to be determined.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1164** (George Runner, R—Lancaster)

**Purpose:** To provide for a bond initiative to be approved by the voters and to provide funds for the upgrading or building of new schools.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1188** (Dean Florez, D—Bakersfield)

**Purpose:** To prohibit employers from writing paychecks on a bank that would charge a fee for cashing the checks unless the employer reimburses the fee.

**Status:** In the Assembly Labor Committee for a vote on June 21.

**LLP Position:** Support.



**SB 1288** (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To require Medi-Cal to cover residential and outpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs for minors age 12 or older.  
**Status:** In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1289** (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To allow a child in foster care, and on AFDC, to continue to get public assistance from age 18–21 if he or she is still in school or is working.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1323** (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To fund a pilot program in Los Angeles for providing mental health services to nonviolent felony offenders with mental health and substance abuse problems.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1335** (Nell Soto, D—Ontario)  
**Purpose:** To allow the revocation of the license of a foster care home if it does not obtain required medical and dental care for its foster children.  
**Status:** In the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on June 27.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1383** (Deborah Ortiz, D—Sacramento)  
**Purpose:** To declare that a student who fails the high school exit exam, but who has completed all the coursework required to graduate from high school, qualifies for a high school equivalency certificate.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1534** (Richard Alarcon, D—Van Nuys)  
**Purpose:** To require several state agencies to work together to create a single low-income program application to cover all services provided to low-income people to assure that they receive all the help for which they qualify.  
**Status:** In the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on June 27.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1784** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To increase taxes on the most wealthy and use the income generated by the increased tax to partially fund single-payer health insurance for all the residents of California.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

## *LGBTI Issues*

**AB 606** (Lloyd Levine, D—Van Nuys)  
**Purpose:** To require school districts to establish and publicize an anti-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and sexual orientation, among other things.  
**Status:** In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 21. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1056** (Judy Chu, D—Monterey Park)  
**Purpose:** To require the State Board of Education to integrate instruction on tolerance into existing English language, and social science curriculum. Would establish these requirements as a pilot program in 10 schools.  
**Status:** In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 29. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1160** (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To establish court rules that reduce the chance of defendants using panic strategies as a way of evading conviction, or to reduce their sentence in trials for hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity.  
**Status:** In the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1207** (Leland Yee, D—San Francisco)  
**Purpose:** To add to the pledge contained in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices that the candidate shall not use gay-bashing or transgender-bashing in their political campaigns.  
**Status:** In the Senate Elections Committee on June 21. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1897** (Mervyn Dymally, D—Compton)  
**Purpose:** To allow the State Personnel Board to order the state to pay a complainant's reasonable attorney's fees when the state engaged in illegal employment discrimination.  
**Status:** In the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2051** (Rebecca Cohn, D—Campbell)  
**Purpose:** To revise a domestic abuse grant program to include the LGBT community for certain purposes of the grant program. The bill would also require membership on a domestic abuse advisory council to include representatives of the LGBT community.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2130** (Chuck DeVore, R—Irvine)  
**Purpose:** To require the state to consider the religious and moral concerns of the parents of a child who has been made a ward of the court when deciding which foster parents to place the child with.  
**Status:** Dead  
**LLP Position:** Oppose. The is clearly aimed at allowing parents to veto placements with same-sex couples or with foster parents who would be supportive of an LGBTI child.

**AB 2386** (Jenny Oropeza, D—Carson)  
**Purpose:** To require the secretary of state to post on his website a list of candidates for public office who have signed a voluntary pledge to abide by a Code of Fair Campaign Practices during an election campaign. Would also require that the pledge be printed in ballot pamphlets and that the pamphlets mention that a list of candidates who took the pledge can be found on the secretary of

state's website.

**Status:** In the Senate Elections Committee for a vote on June 21. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2472** (Mark Wyland, R—Vista)  
**Purpose:** To allow veterans and members of the military reserves, and their immediate family members (but not domestic partners) to qualify for in-state tuition rates for the California State University or Community College system.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support if amended to add domestic partners.

**AB 2550** (Sam Blakeslee, R—San Luis Obispo)  
**Purpose:** To require that any qualified member of the California National Guard or a widow, widower, or spouse of a qualified member (but not a domestic partner) be awarded additional preference points for any civil service employment.  
**Status:** In the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee for a vote on June 27.  
**LLP Position:** Support if amended to add domestic partners.

**AB 2800** (John Laird, D—Santa Cruz)  
**Purpose:** To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, among others, in housing and housing-related areas.  
**Status:** Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2920** (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)  
**Purpose:** To force require the state to require that each area agency on aging include the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors in their needs assessment and area plans, and require the state to provide technical assistance to the area agencies on aging for the training of all program staff, contractors, and volunteers regarding the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a Senate committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

**ACR 56** (Judy Chu, D—Monterey Park)  
**Purpose:** To designate June 2006 as Hate Crimes Awareness Month.  
**Status:** Passed by the Legislature. The legislative process is finished. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1437** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To prohibit instruction or school-sponsored activities that reflect adversely upon persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly Education Committee. Sent to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 20.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1441** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in programs operated or funded by the state.

*Continued on page 8*



**Status:** Passed the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 20.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1827** (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)  
**Purpose:** To allow registered domestic partners to file joint or separate California Income Tax forms.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee for a vote on June 19. **LLP Position:** Support.

## *People of Color Issues*

**AB 432** (Jenny Oropeza, D—Carson)  
**Purpose:** To authorize a new citizen to register and vote at a location designated by the county until 8 PM on Election Day.  
**Status:** Sent to the Senate Elections Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 680** (Wilma Chan, D—Oakland)  
**Purpose:** To require the state Board of Education to monitor school districts to make sure that, when 15% or more of the pupils enrolled in a public school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to the parent or guardian of the pupil by the school are written in that language and may be responded to either in that language or English.  
**Status:** Assembly concurrence pending on amendments made in the Senate. In the Assembly inactive file. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1076** (Jerome Horton, D—Inglewood)  
**Purpose:** To require that public schools teach children about World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war.  
**Status:** In the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1988** (Joe Coto, D—San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To require the State Department of Education and other agencies to develop criteria to identify effective California educators and programs to train other educators in providing effective English learner instruction, and to develop databases of these educators and programs.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2060** (Hector De La Torre, D—South Gate)  
**Purpose:** To require the Department of Community Services and Development to contract with, and allocate funds to, organizations to provide free naturalization services to would-be citizens.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Human Services Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2086** (Mervyn Dymally, D—Compton)  
**Purpose:** To require the Chancellor of California's Community Colleges to encourage community college districts in northern California to expand services to indigenous peoples through collaborative programs with private, open-access, nonprofit tribal colleges in the region. Would encourage community college districts to negotiate and

implement articulation agreements with tribal colleges to assist indigenous peoples to gain access to nursing and teacher preparation programs.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2302** (Assembly Judiciary Committee)  
**Purpose:** To require the courts to provide interpreters in a wide variety of civil cases when a party to the proceeding is limited English proficient unless the party provides his or her own interpreter.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 27.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2420** (Ted Lieu, D—El Segundo)  
**Purpose:** To require state agencies, when collecting demographic data, to specifically collect data for Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Tongan, other Asians, and other Pacific Islanders, along with any other categories of people.  
**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Education Committee for a vote on June 21. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AJR 37** (Mark Ridley Thomas, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To urge Congress to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.  
**Status:** Approved and sent to Congress.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1160** (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To permit the issuance of limited-use driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants in conformance with federal law.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Transportation Committee for a vote on June 26. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1267** (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To establish the Office of Immigrant Affairs to ensure the integration and civic participation of new citizens in the state.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1329** (Elaine Alquist, D—San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To encourage the opening of retail stores that sell healthy food in limited-income neighborhoods.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Housing Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1405** (Nell Soto, D—Ontario)  
**Purpose:** To establish the Task Force on Reimbursement for Language Services to develop and adopt a mechanism for seeking federal matching funds to pay for language assistance services, including oral interpretation services and

translation of written materials, for the population that is limited English proficient and that is enrolled in Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program.  
**Status:** In the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1569** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)  
**Purpose:** To extend eligibility for certain state and local benefits, including, but not limited to, refugee cash assistance, Medi-Cal, and employment social services, to qualified noncitizen victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1575** (Joe Dunn, D—Garden Grove)  
**Purpose:** To require schools to teach children about the unconstitutional deportation of US citizens and legal residents of Mexican American heritage during the 1930s.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Education Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1615** (Joseph Simitian, D—Palo Alto)  
**Purpose:** To require state agencies that collect ethnic and racial data using filled-out forms to allow people to check more than one race and more than one ethnicity when completing the forms.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

## *Women's Issues*

**AB 525** (Judy Chu, D—Monterey Park)  
**Purpose:** To strengthen laws regarding the reporting of emotional child abuse likely to do serious emotional damage to a child.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1796** (Rudy Bermudez, D—Norwalk)  
**Purpose:** To require people seeking a license to practice medicine to disclose any information about any sexual misconduct or harassment in his or her past.  
**Status:** Approved by the Senate Business and Professions Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on June 19.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1911** (Bonnie Garcia, R—El Centro)  
**Purpose:** To appropriate \$15 million for the support of Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams—coalitions of local law enforcement and other local government agencies that work together to fight sexual assault crimes—and require the Department of Justice to study their effectiveness.  
**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2066** (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To require the Department of Corrections to create a Female Reform Master Plan and



conduct a research study of victimization of female inmates and report on the study to the legislature. Also would require the department to develop a community-based female offender program comprised of a continuum of facilities for nonserious, nonviolent female inmates. The bill would require the department to secure 4,500 beds over two years in facilities that provide an array of services to promote successful reentry into society.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Watch.

**AB 2084** (Betty Karnette, D—Long Beach)

**Purpose:** To make improvements in the laws relating to the operation of domestic abuse shelters.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 27. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2139** (Bonnie Garcia, R—El Centro)

**Purpose:** To require a police officer responding to a domestic violence complaint to inform the victim that he or she can ask the officer to request an emergency restraining order against the perpetrator.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2141** (Dave Jones, D—Sacramento)

**Purpose:** To establish a parent—child communication program to help parents communicate with their children about sex so as to reduce the number of teen pregnancies.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2169** (Cindy Montanez, D—Mission Hills)

**Purpose:** To delete the sunset provision for a program designed to protect domestic violence victims from stalkers by keeping key information about the victims confidential. This protective program would continue indefinitely.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2251** (Noreen Evans, D—Santa Rosa)

**Purpose:** To prohibit anyone from posting on the Internet any information about the addresses, home phone numbers, or picture of any employee, volunteer (or their family members), or patient of a reproductive health services facility with the intent of causing bodily harm.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2317** (Paul Koretz, D—West Hollywood)

**Purpose:** To require the State Department of Health Services to conduct the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) Awareness Campaign, using private donations to pay for it, to increase awareness and provide education to pregnant women and new mothers on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Health Committee for a vote on June 21.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2555** (Jenny Oropeza, D—Carson)

**Purpose:** To increase the penalties for employers who pay employees of one sex less than those of the other sex for the same work.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Labor Committee for a vote on June 21.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2583** (Joe Nation, D—San Rafael)

**Purpose:** To require pharmacies to post visible signs in their stores informing women of their rights to prescription drugs and devices that have been legally prescribed.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Health Committee for a vote on June 21.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2695** (Jackie Goldberg, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To allow an employer to seek a restraining order against a person who committed domestic violence, when that domestic violence occurred in the workplace. Also would eliminate the fee for serving restraining orders in many cases.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2781** (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To regulate the activities of private child support collection agencies in order to protect the adult seeking child support. Would also require the person who owes child support to pay half the cost of the private collection agency's fees.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 27.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**ACA 24** (Rebecca Cohn, D—Campbell)

**Purpose:** To increase the income tax on income above \$100,000 per year and require that the extra taxes taken in this way be used to support domestic violence shelters.

**Status:** Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

**ACR 99** (Rebecca Cohn, D—Campbell)

**Purpose:** To declare the month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**Status:** In the Assembly inactive file.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1240** (Dennis Hollingsworth, R—Temecula)

**Purpose:** To appropriate an unspecified amount for the support of Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams, which are coalitions of local law enforcement and other local government agencies that work together to fight sexual assault crimes.

**Status:** Dead. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1245** (Liz Figueroa, D—Fremont)

**Purpose:** To require that insurance companies or

health care providers pay for the HPV test as part of the annual cervical cancer screening test.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1260** (Deborah Ortiz, D—Sacramento)

**Purpose:** To require that a doctor, before harvesting eggs from a woman for research purposes, obtain her written consent and provide her with information on health and consumer issues related to the process.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Senate Health Committee for a vote on June 27.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1402** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** Under current law charges of rape cannot be prosecuted unless they have been reported within one year of the date on which the rape occurred or unless it has been corroborated by independent evidence. This bill would remove these impediments to prosecution of rape charges.

**Status:** Approved by the Legislature. Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1491** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To prohibit any agency making grants to domestic abuse service providers from requiring, as a condition of the grant, the disclosure of identifying information about the clients they serve or requiring the use of computer programs or systems that require the disclosure of this information.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1743** (Debra Bowen, D—Redondo Beach)

**Purpose:** Under current law when a person petitions the court for a legal change of name to try to escape notice of an abuser, the petition and the court's order to show cause must be published.

The proposed new name of the petitioner is usually in these documents. This bill would allow the name to remain confidential except that it will be placed on file with the secretary of state.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 20. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1745** (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To declare the intent of the state legislature to develop legislation that would protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in their homes and prohibit discrimination against these victims in housing and employment.

**Status:** Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Awaiting assignment to an Assembly committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

**SJR 19** (Elaine Alquist, D—San Jose)

**Purpose:** To urge Congress and the president to uphold the Roe v. Wade decision of the US Supreme Court.

**Status:** In the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support. 





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